



Thursday, 27 May 1993

## *The week in statistics ...*

- |                                                                              |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing prices in March                       | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Import prices down again                            | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Average pay barely moves in year to February        | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial disputes in brief ...                    | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing production in April                   | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State breakdowns of economic activity now available | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expected releases over the fortnight to 8 June      | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selected releases: 19 to 25 May                     | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The latest ...<br>— key national/State indicators   | 8 |

statistics

## Manufacturing prices in March

The price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry fell by 0.4 per cent in March 1993 while the price index of materials used in manufacturing industries fell by 0.6 per cent over the same period. Details of movements in the two price indexes are given below.

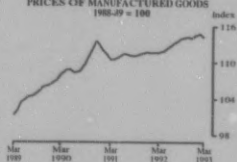
### Prices of goods sold down slightly

Small price decreases were recorded for about one-quarter of the items in the index. The main contributors to the decrease were refined petroleum products and meat.

These decreases were partially offset by small price increases for about one-quarter of the items in the index.

The manufacturing division index increased by 2.4 per cent between March 1992 and March 1993.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS  
1988-89 = 100



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, MARCH 1993  
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	-2.7	9.5
Transport equipment	0.1	3.4
Food, beverages and tobacco	-0.4	3.3
Other machinery and equipment	-0.2	2.7
Chemicals and chemical products	-0.1	1.6
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.9
Fabricated metal products	0.2	0.6
Basic metal products	-1.8	-0.7
Total manufacturing	-0.4	2.4

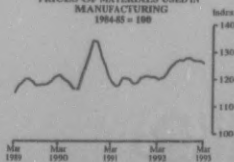
### Materials prices down

Prices for both imported and home produced materials fell in March (down 0.7% and 0.6% respectively).

The main contributor to the decrease in the imported materials index was chemicals and chemicals based materials. Lower prices for live animals and for metal ores and concentrates were the main contributors to the decrease in home produced materials. Higher oil prices partly offset the decreases in both the domestic and import components of the index.

Between March 1992 and March 1993 prices of manufacturing materials increased by 4.9 per cent.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN  
MANUFACTURING  
1994-95 = 100



The table below summarises the price movements.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, MARCH 1993  
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	-0.7	5.1
Home produced	-0.6	4.8
All manufacturing	-0.6	4.9

For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)* and *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541 or Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

## Import prices down again

The Import Price Index fell by 1.1 per cent in March 1993, following a fall of 0.7 per cent in February.

The value of the Australian dollar rose against the major trading currencies in March leading to price falls in a wide range of items.

The most significant price falls were for machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods classified by material, miscellaneous manufactured articles and chemicals.

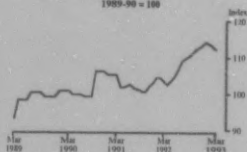
Between March 1992 and March 1993 the total index increased by 8.4 per cent.

Price changes for selected items are shown below.

IMPORT PRICES, MARCH 1993  
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Crude materials	0.5	12.5
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	-1.0	11.9
Machinery and transport equipment	-1.3	10.6
Food and live animals	-0.7	8.1
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-1.0	6.4
Beverages and tobacco	-1.4	5.9
Chemical products	-0.9	5.4
Manufactured goods	-1.3	5.1
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-1.9	-4.8
All groups	-1.1	8.4

IMPORT PRICES  
1989-90 = 100



## Average pay barely moves in year to February

Several measures of average earnings showed the smallest annual increase for at least twelve years in the year to February 1993.

At the national level, average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adult persons and full-time adult males, and total earnings for full-time adult males recorded the lowest increases for any twelve month period since the introduction of the series in 1981.

Average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adults in the public sector rose by 1.8 per cent in the year, and an increase of 0.4 per cent in the private sector produced an overall rise of 0.8 per cent.

All States and Territories except New South Wales and Western Australia recorded increases in full-time adult persons ordinary time earnings greater than the national average.

The low annual increases in most categories of earnings were achieved despite significant increases in the three months to February 1993 (see *Statistics Weekly* of 6 May).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FEBRUARY 1993  
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

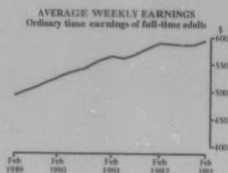
	Weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	November 1992	February 1993
New South Wales	639.40	539.20	603.40	0.6	-1.5
Victoria	631.10	531.40	595.10	1.3	1.8
Queensland	590.80	502.90	559.90	1.8	3.2
South Australia	610.10	533.30	584.80	0.0	1.7
Western Australia	641.90	511.20	596.90	1.7	0.3
Tasmania	596.90	520.00	569.90	0.9	2.7
Northern Territory	669.70	575.50	632.00	0.2	4.2
Australian Capital Territory	743.80	609.20	685.80	3.2	3.2
Australia	628.60	530.60	593.70	1.2	0.8

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0), or contact Ann Soutar on (09) 323 5304.

## Industrial disputes in brief ...

In February 1993 there were 49 disputes reported in progress involving 22,900 employees and the loss of 25,800 working days. This is an increase in industrial disputation compared to January 1993 when there were 37 disputes in progress involving 4,600 employees and 5,500 working days lost. The community services industry reported 8,500 working days lost in February, compared to 300 in January 1993. Victoria and Queensland reported 9,800 and 8,800 working days lost respectively. These two States represent 72 per cent of all time lost in Australia during the month.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, February 1993* (6321.0).



## Manufacturing production in April

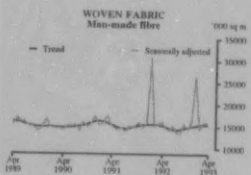
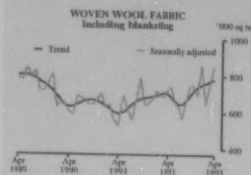
The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-one with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

In the table below, sixteen items are showing increased production levels over those of twelve months earlier. Production of electric motors showed strong growth rising 4.3 per cent in April 1993, continuing the growth in trend beginning in April 1992. Car and station wagon production showed strong trend growth in April and is now over 10 per cent above the level of April 1992. Domestic clothes washing machines continued a rising trend observed since October 1992. Cotton yarn, woven wool fabric and woven man-made fibre fabric continued rising trends observed for at least the last six months while the most recent data suggests the trend growth in production of wool yarn has levelled off.

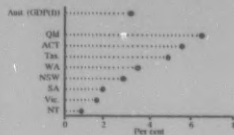
The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the monthly publications.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, APRIL 1993

Product	Percentage change in trend	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Electric motors	4.3	38.1
Cotton yarn	1.0	13.0
Domestic clothes washing machines	1.7	12.8
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	1.3	11.0
Cars and station wagons	2.7	10.2
Clay bricks	0.1	9.0
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	1.4	8.8
Textile floor coverings	0.1	8.5
Portland cement	0.8	8.4
Electricity	0.4	3.5
Wool yarn	0.2	3.4
Chocolate based confectionery	-3.0	2.7
Woven man-made fibre fabric	0.5	1.8
Cigarettes and tobacco	-1.3	1.4
Beer	0.8	1.1
Gas available for issue through mains	0.6	0.2
Other confectionery	0.2	-1.5
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	2.6	-1.7
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-4.1	-1.7
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-2.2	-22.5
Television sets	2.9	-22.6



GROSS STATE PRODUCT - CURRENT PRICES  
Percentage change June to December 1992



## State breakdowns of economic activity now available

The first official quarterly estimates of gross State product and State final demand were released recently. They provided an overall picture of State economic activity and relative growth between the States. The figures are a State decomposition of income-based GDP and domestic final demand and their components published in the December quarter 1992 Australian national accounts.

The following table shows growth in State and Territory economies in current price terms, for the year ended June 1992 and the year ended December 1992. The figures are expressed in annual terms because seasonally adjusted estimates of gross State product (GSP) are not yet available, making estimates for individual quarters difficult to interpret.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT — CURRENT PRICES  
Percentage change

	Twelve months ending	
	June 92	Dec 92
New South Wales	2.6	2.9
Victoria	-1.3	1.7
Queensland	4.6	6.5
South Australia	1.9	2.0
Western Australia	3.0	3.5
Tasmania	4.3	4.9
Northern Territory	-6.5	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	6.9	5.6
Australia (GDP(I))	1.9	3.2

The Australian Capital Territory, followed by Queensland, showed the strongest growth in current price (nominal) terms in 1991-92. Victoria and the Northern Territory were the only States to experience a decline in GSP in 1991-92. However, the decline in GSP for the Northern Territory is substantially caused by the rapid oil price rise at the time of the Gulf War in 1990-91, contributing to extraordinarily high growth in that year. Although this factor also affected other States, its relative effect on them was much less extreme.

The 1992 calendar year is notable for the return to positive growth in Victoria. Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory were still showing the highest growth, although their relative positions had reversed since the end of June. Tasmania and Western Australia also experienced higher growth than the Australian average in each of the annual periods shown in the table.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is developing seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for gross State product and State final demand and their components. It is expected that these estimates will be published later this year.

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (5242.0)*, or contact Tony Johnson on (06) 252 7188 concerning current price estimates or Paul Curran on (06) 252 6711 concerning constant price estimates.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO Box 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

(06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

### Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed above.

### Editor

(06) 252 6104

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 8 June

May

- 26 Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1994, March Quarter 1993 Survey, Preliminary (\$625.0; \$10.70)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, April 1993 Preliminary (\$901.0; \$10.70)
- 27 Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales, March Quarter 1993 and Expected Sales to December 1993, Australia (\$629.0; \$10.70)  
Company Profits, Australia, March 1993 (\$651.0; \$10.70)
- 28 Balance of Payments, Australia, March Quarter 1993 (\$302.0; \$21.40)
- 31 Balance of Payments, Australia, April 1993 (\$301.0; \$16.30)  
Building Approvals, Australia, April 1993 (\$731.0; \$13.30)
- June
- 1 Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, March Quarter 1993 (\$206.0; \$26.00)  
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, March Quarter 1993 (\$125.0; \$10.70)
- 3 International Investment Position, Australia, March Quarter 1993 (\$306.0; \$21.40)
- 7 Retail Trade, Australia, April 1993 (\$801.0; \$10.70)

## Selected releases: 19 to 25 May

### General

Economic Indicators, Qld, May 1993 (1307.3; \$6.60)  
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, May 1993 (1303.6; \$9.70)  
Northern Territory Business Indicators, May 1993 (1307.7; \$7.50)

### Social statistics

Western Aust.'s Young People, August 1991 (4123.5; \$12.50) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Personal Finance, Aust., March 1993 (\$642.0; \$6.10)  
Commercial Finance, Aust., March 1993 (\$643.0; \$6.10)  
Lease Finance, Aust., March 1993 (\$644.0; \$6.10)  
State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, December Qtr 1992 (\$646.0; \$10.70)

### Labour statistics and prices

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., December Qtr 1992 (\$6248.0; \$16.30)  
Industrial Disputes, Aust., February 1993 (6321.0; \$10.70)

### Agriculture

Agricultural Industries Financial Statistics, Aust. 1989-90, 1991-92, Preliminary (7508.0; \$16.30)

### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Industry, Aust., 1991-92, Preliminary (8201.0; \$10.20)  
Manufacturing Industry, Aust., 1989-90 (8221.0; \$30.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, March 1993 (8361.0; \$9.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, March 1993 (8363.0; \$7.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, March 1993 (8367.0; \$7.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, March 1993 (8368.0; \$7.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, March 1993 (8369.0; \$7.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	93,598	0.7	2.5
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	Mar. 93	\$m	-1,935	-2,132	148	98
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-554	-709	—	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-668	-933	—	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,012	4,739	-7	5
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5,566	-5,448	16	26
Net foreign debt	31 Dec. 92	\$m	168,251	n.a.	2.7	16.1
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	213,744	n.a.	2.6	13.1
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	Mar. 93	\$m	7,835	8,017	-1.2	2.5
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices (d)	Dec. qtr 92		7,020	6,472	13.0	10.9
New motor vehicle registrations (d)	Mar. 93	no.	51,598	45,109	3.6	-5.1
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices (c)	Dec. qtr 92	\$m	34,960	33,470	2.7	2.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Mar. 93		15,759	14,559	1.6	13.6
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,114	1,972	-7.2	13.8
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92		6,391	6,086	2.0	6.1
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	108.9	n.a.	0.9	1.2
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Mar. 93	1988-89 = 100.0	114.3	n.a.	-0.4	2.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Mar. 93	1984-85 = 100.0	125.9	n.a.	-0.6	4.9
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	Apr. 93	'000	7,662.2	7,652.0	-0.1	-0.4
Participation rate †	"	%	62.1	61.9	-0.8	-0.9
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.8	10.7	-0.2	0.2
Job vacancies	Feb. 93	'000	29.8	28.9	-4.4	8.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.14	1.16	3.0	3.8
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	Sept. 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.3	1.3
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Feb. 93	'000	245	233	-2.2	10.8
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax (e)	Dec. qtr 92	\$m	4,853	3,728	-10.2	25.1
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Feb. 93	\$	593.70	n.a.	1.2	0.8
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Mar. 93	% per annum	5.35	n.a.	-0.45	-2.20
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	7.80	n.a.	-0.20	-2.10
Exchange rate — US\$	Mar. 93	per \$A	0.7073	n.a.	4	-7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 26 May 1993. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 27 May 1993.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

Key State indicators	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Sept. qtr 92	-15.9	-15.2	2.9	-29.3	0.3	-18.8	n.a.	n.a.	-10.6
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Mar. 93	-0.9	2.9	6.2	0.3	7.6	3.5	n.a.	7.1	2.6
New motor vehicle registrations†	Mar. 93	-4.5	-3.9	-10.5	-8.6	-3.5	2.6	16.3	25.3	-5.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Mar. 93	15.5	10.9	21.8	7.8	8.5	7.2	120.8	-19.7	13.6
Value of total building work done	Dec. qtr 92	0.7	-1.2	15.8	15.2	16.4	13.1	-9.5	-0.5	5.6
Employed persons*	Apr. 93	-3.3	-0.2	2.3	0.6	2.5	-1.2	-4.7	5.9	-0.4
Capital city consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Feb. 93	-1.5	1.8	3.2	1.7	0.3	2.7	4.2	3.2	0.8
Population	Sept. 92	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.0	2.3	1.3
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	2.9

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

